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PRESS RELEASE

USAID's Creative Teaching and Learning Program brings university facilities and teaching methods to European standards

Thanks to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the students at the faculties of Philology and Philosophy of the University of St. Cyril and Methodius will start this academic year in a completely renovated and newly-equipped amphitheatre. USAID is part of the U.S. mission in Macedonia.

The renovation, which cost over 80,000 US dollars, was performed as part of the USAID-funded Creative Teaching and Learning (CTL) program implemented by the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM).

"We are grateful for the CTL program not only because the project renovated our facilities and equipped them with modern technologies, but also because it provided training to our staff and students that improved the overall quality of teaching," said the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy Professor Trajan Gocevski.

During her opening remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 15th, U.S. Ambassador Milovanovic praised the commitment of Macedonian educators to improve the standards of learning and the use of modern information technology, and expressed her confidence in the ability of teachers to bring the Macedonian educational system to European standards.

Since December 2005, the CTL project has provided technical assistance and equipment to eight public pre-service Teacher Training Institutions in Skopje, Stip, Bitola and Tetovo. The goal of the project is to improve the quality of instruction and ensure that future teachers are equipped with student-centered teaching methodologies and modern information technology.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.